

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HYDE, Henry J. (Republican)
Representative, 6th District, Illinois
Elected 1974 to 94th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Chicago, Illinois - 18 April 1924
Home: Wood Dale, Illinois
Marital status: Widower - 4 children
Religion: Roman Catholic
Education: Georgetown U., 1947, B.S.; Loyola, 1949, J.D.
Military: Ensign, USNR, 1942-46; Cmdr, USN Reserve, 1946-68
Profession: Lawyer

Political: US House nominee, 1962; IL House, 1967-74; majority ldr, 1971-72. Succeeded Rep Harold Collier (R) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 59% of the vote and in 2002 with 65%.

Rep Hyde is a conservative and viewed as an elder statesman in his party. Said to have one of the sharpest legal minds on Capitol Hill, was forced by GOP term limits to give up his chairmanship of the House Judiciary Cmte at the beginning of the 107th Congress and took the gavel of the International Relations Cmte instead. In his lead role in foreign policy for the GOP, has been a loyal backer of President Bush's war on terrorism at home and abroad. Has been a staunch foe of abortion. As chair of the Judiciary Cmte in 1998 led the House impeachment effort against former President Bill Clinton. During the impeachment trial it was revealed that Rep Hyde had some ethics problems of his own – an acknowledged 5-year affair with a married woman when he was in his 40's. (Politics in America, 2004)

In the 102nd Congress, voted to give the first President Bush authority to use military force in the Persian Gulf and suggested resurrecting the draft. In the 103d Congress, sent the SecDef a letter (Feb93) urging him to reject proposals to move military units from O'Hare to Rockford. In the 104th Congress, became Chairman of the Judiciary Cmte. Proposed an unsuccessful amendment to repeal the War Powers Resolution. Supports using military expertise when problems of a chemical / biological nature are faced. In the 105th Congress, led the successful House impeachment inquiry of President Clinton, resulting in charges of obstruction of justice and perjury. Senate subsequently failed to convict the President on those charges. Supported US-NATO air and missile strikes against Yugoslavia and commended the President and the troops for their success in the conflict. In the 107th Congress called for the US to break its agreement with North Korea on nuclear energy cooperation. In April 2001 called for the immediate release by China of the crew of the Navy EP-3 aircraft forced down on Hainan Island. Urged the Bush administration to field an effective national missile defense system. Opposed the policy of making female US military personnel wear abayas while off-base in Saudi Arabia. Called upon the administration to seek congressional approval prior to moving militarily against Iraq. Opposed the UN's International Criminal Court, seeing it as a potential threat to prosecute US military personnel. In the 108th Congress supports a GAO investigation into all aspects of reconstruction in Iraq following the US military action.

AF Bases: O'Hare IAP (ANG & AFRES)

COMMITTEES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS- Chairman

JUDICIARY